

colleagues and ask them to join me in the effort to repeal the AMT on individuals by co-sponsoring this bill.

APRIL IS PREVENTION OF
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. At this time each year, parents, teachers, and humane educators in small towns and large cities across America teach young people to take proper care of their family cats and dogs. They also teach them to spay and neuter their pets to prevent unwanted litters. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has for more than 130 years taught us and our children these important lessons. Today, I ask the Congress to join with families, educators, veterinarians, and fine organizations such as the Prevent-a-Litter Coalition and the ASPCA, in urging the Postmaster General to issue a spay/neuter stamp so that this important message will appear on millions of pieces of mail in the year 2000. Millions of stamps means millions of messages, which will save millions of lives.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month is also a most appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, for all of us in the Congress to support pending legislation which will help alleviate pain, fear and suffering in animals. I urge my colleagues to support HR 443, The Downed Animal Protection Act, which would require the euthanization at stockyards, feedlots, and auctions, of farm animals such as cows, pigs and sheep, if they have been so badly injured or weakened they can no longer walk on their own. I also urge for HR 453, the Pet Safety and Protection Act, which would make it more difficult for family pets to be stolen and illegally sold to research facilities. More and more of our constituents are writing and asking for improvements in the way animals are treated. Accordingly, supporting humane legislation is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to be responsive to the American public in a positive, bipartisan way.

HONORING AND ANSWERING THE
FOURTH DISTRICT OF COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Colorado's Fourth Congressional District and the opinions of my constituents concerning the direction their country is taking. Recently, I surveyed thousands of citizens about issues important to them. I would like to report to you the results of that opinion survey.

The survey asked, "What is the single most important issue facing our country today?" Respondents came back with a whole host of answers including tax relief, preserving social security, need for an effective missile defense system, the failing farm economy, too much

government, high taxes, improving our children's education, etc. But the prevailing concern is a "lack of moral leadership," "honesty," "corrupt administration," "moral deterioration," "decline in ethics and morals," and "moral decay." This message was repeated over and over again. The people of Colorado understand the qualities our Founding Fathers identified in order to continue the stability of our Republic, requiring the cultivation of personal morality and responsibility, and courage to stand up for those values.

The number concerned for our country's moral leadership was followed closely by their outrage over President Clinton's decision to involve the U.S. military in Kosovo. Folks support a strong military but they urged our troops' return from the civil dispute in Kosovo. To date, I have heard from no one supporting this recent military venture of the President's.

The second question asked, "What is the single most important issue to you or your family?" The answers to this question mirrored those they believe are important to the country. They are demanding honorable and moral leadership of this country, believing it will cause a renewal of responsibility, morality and liberty in our society.

The survey continued, asking what people think is the biggest challenge for our schools. Responses included funds not reaching the classrooms; class sizes too big; worries over drugs and violence; Federal Government involvement in our local schools; lack of discipline and parental involvement; curriculum not teaching the basics; ridding the classrooms of the teachers union; need for school choice; and demand for more local control. While the concerns are varied, it is unanimous that people are concerned about the quality of education their children are receiving.

Fourth District Coloradans, more than two-to-one, oppose partial birth abortions and overwhelmingly oppose second amendment gun rights being restricted. But, perhaps the most compelling and almost unanimous response comes in support of requiring Congress to balance the budget and reform taxes.

The 105th Congress provided Americans with the first balanced Federal budget and the first budget surplus since 1969. Since the Republican Congress proved we can balance the budget, people want us to ensure we will balance the budget permanently. It is for this reason I am proud to sponsor H.J. Res. 1, the Balanced Budget Amendment Resolution of 1999. With a permanently balanced budget, the Federal Government will be forced to prioritize money for programs important to Coloradans.

Respondents differ on whether a flat tax or consumption tax would be best, but folks are almost unanimous in believing the IRS tax code should be abolished and Americans given much-needed tax relief. Without exception, no one asked for new taxes or new government programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the response I received to the opinion survey. I shall consider this valuable input and share it with colleagues. Americans should keep in close touch with their elected officials. This way, we as public servants know our every move is being watched, and the measurement of our achievement depends upon the betterment of their life, and that of their families.

REGULATORY FAIRNESS AND
OPENNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, crop protection tools are necessary for family farmers to provide a safe and reliable food supply to the consumer and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must use sound science to evaluate and determine which products are dependable and safe. If this is not accomplished, safe and useful crop protection products will be unavailable for use by the family farmer and the quality and affordability of wholesome food supply will be jeopardized.

For this reason, I joined several of my colleagues today in introducing the Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999. This bipartisan legislation will give EPA the ability to address potential problems with the registration and re-registration processes for crop protection tools during the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. This bill ensures that the EPA has the capability to adequately evaluate and analyze all available, accessible data and information and to use the best science to determine which crop protection tools will be available for the family farmer. This Act does not change the FQPA standards for pesticide evaluations, it clarifies the processes employed for evaluation in order to allow for full and scientifically correct compliance with the requirements of the FQPA.

Without the Regulatory and Openness Act of 1999, many crop protection tools will be eliminated for use by agriculture, putting the farmers in the United States at a competitive disadvantage with foreign imports. These imports do not have to meet the strict regulatory requirements that our farmers must follow.

Further, if the EPA eliminates crop protection tools without allowing time for the development of new alternatives, family farmers will lose crops to pest infestations and the consumer will lose the quality and quantity of food available to them. This bill encourages and supports research into expanded information gathering on the use of crop protection tools and research into the development of new alternatives for managing pests in agriculture.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation. The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999 is important not only for agricultural America, but for all Americans. Through complete and thorough risk assessments of crop protection tools using actual and relevant data and sound science, the EPA and family farmers can continue to provide our country's citizens with the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

THOUGHTS ON KOSOVO

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you thoughts on Kosovo from a friend back home, retired Vice Admiral Al Baciocco. His insight as a military man speaks